



Cyan Magenta Yellow Black



Country Stampede

Fans spend four days listening to music, partying

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Fort Riley Post



Softball continues

383rd Regiment, MEDDAC defeat opponents

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Thursday, June 30, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 48, No. 26

Around The Army

Germany:

The European Stars and Stripes reported June 28 that the Army and Air Force Exchange Service had announced June 27 that its unleaded gas prices across much of Europe would drop about five cents per gallon on July 1, based on a recent four-week average of fuel prices in the United States. At the same time, a small jump in diesel prices will cost drivers about as much as a couple of sparklers per tank in Germany and the United Kingdom, where rates will rise about three cents per gallon.

Customers in the Netherlands, however, will have to shell out an extra 18 cents per gallon starting July 1. Unleaded fuel will jump about four cents a gallon. For more on this and other U.S. military news in the European and Pacific theaters, visit www.estripes.com on the Web.

Fort Knox:

The Turret reported June 23 that, while the armor community awaits the final decision on the recent Base Realignment and Closure Commission's recommendations that could send Fort Knox's Armor School and training units to a new home at Fort Benning, Ga., Cathy Bourgeois, the managing editor of Armor magazine, isn't worried about what may happen to the publication.

She said she's confident in the survival of the more than a century-old publication.

The magazine was founded in 1888. While its name has changed over the past 117 years -- from the Journal of the U.S. Cavalry Association from 1888-1921 to Armored Cavalry Journal from 1946-1950 -- the purpose of the Armor Magazine has remained unchanged.

"It's an open exchange of ideas of what the armor force as a whole is doing, going to do, or should do," explained Bourgeois.

For more on this story and other Fort Knox news, visit www.theneighbor-prince.com/turret/ on the Web.

Kosovo:

The Guardian Review reported that members of Task Force Tornado had recently provided the equipment and materials to validate members of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) in rope rescue techniques.

The KPC, also known as the Trupat Mbrojtëse të Kosovës (TMK), is a civil protection agency created by the United Nations under U.N. Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1244. The organization was designed to provide civil assistance to the people of Kosovo.

For more on this story and other news about KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East), visit www.iffalcon.hqs.usmc.mil on the Web.

Soldiers to serve as victims' advocates

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Fort Riley gained some help this month for Soldiers and family members who are victims of sexual assault.

Melody McDowall led instruction for the first class set up June 22 for Soldiers who will serve additional duty as unit victims' advocates.

Commanders selected 20 Sol-

diers in enlisted grades of staff sergeant or higher or officer grades of first lieutenant or higher for the training and the added responsibility of working primarily with Soldiers who are sexually assaulted. Eventually, every company and every battalion on post must assign two Soldiers to serve as sexual assault victim advocates.

Unit victim advocates receive 32 hours of training each year, eight hours each quarter, said Barbara J.

Garber, Fort Riley's sexual assault response coordinator.

About one-third of the first class was female Soldiers, Garber said. Combat units on post won't have women assigned, so men will fill the new task positions.

Most people think sexual assault only happens to women, but we've had cases in the Army of male on male assault, and some victims, women and men, say they prefer to talk to a man about their assault,

Garber said.

Each brigade must also appoint a deployable sexual assault response coordinator to assist unit victim advocates as a collateral duty while units are deployed, Garber said. Deployable sexual assault response coordinators will be in grades of E-7 and higher.

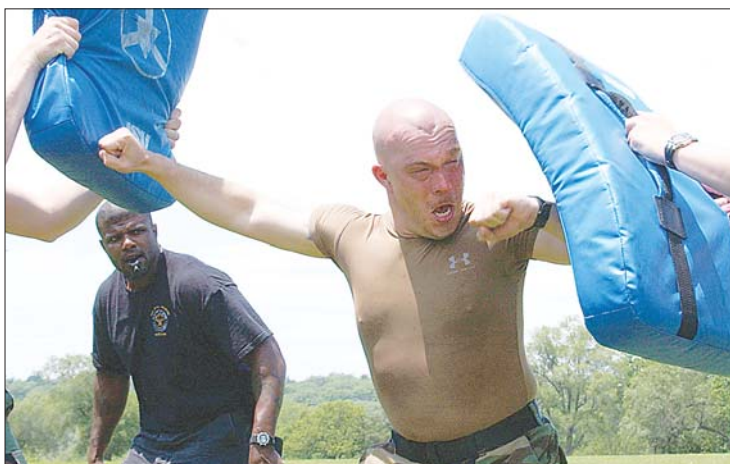
The advocates' responsibility will be to assist a victim needing help after an assault. His or her responsibility will be to guide and

direct the victim to whatever help is needed, not to treat the victim, said retired Maj. Gen. Craig Wheldon. Wheldon visited Fort Riley June 21 as a representative of Serco Services Inc. to discuss the importance of victim assistance with the installation leadership and employees directly involved in providing the advocate services.

Serco provides governments and private industry assistance to

See Assault, Page 6

Police training



Instructor Sgt. Kevin Foxworth of the 523rd MP Co. looks on as Soldiers simulate a physical confrontation with Spc. Eric Gerber of the 116th MP Co., who was sprayed with pepper spray a few minutes earlier.

MPs, DA police train at post academy

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

Fort Riley law enforcement officers fought through the pain of being "pepper sprayed" while continuing to persevere through the physical and mental pain while continuing to do their job as police officers.

"It's toughest on them mentally. Many of these individuals have never been sprayed and have a certain fear," Perryman said. "Once they get sprayed and go through this, they see it's not all that hard."

Some of the mental issues to overcome were panic from the body's responses to the pepper spray and feeling like the tasks couldn't be completed, Perry-

See Academy, Page 6



Spc. Jeffrey Johnson of the 116th MP Co. takes a dose of pepper spray to the eyes from instructor Sgt. Kevin Foxworth of the 523rd MP Co.

Soldier convicted in weapons case

By Saju Ng'alla
Special to the Post

Seven months after five military weapons were found near Milford Lake, a military court convicted a Fort Riley Soldier for not properly disposing of the weapons.

Sgt. William Johns of the 125th Forward Support Battalion was convicted on June 14 at Fort Riley for wrongful disposition of govern-

ment property and dereliction of duty, said Jeff Coverdale, a Fort Riley Spokesman.

In December, five machine guns -- an M-240, a 5.56mm and three Browning .50-caliber guns -- were found near Madison Creek Bridge. Three were found by area residents and two others were found by members of the Geary County Sheriff's Department.

In January, a Fort Riley spokesman said the machine guns

were not serviceable and were not illegally missing from any post units.

The spokesman said the machine guns were part of a group of weapons coded for turn-in and disposal.

Coverdale said a total of 10 military weapons were recovered during the investigation conducted by members of the Fort Riley Criminal Investigation Division and all were coded for disposal. Coverdale said

he did not know what Johns intended to do with the weapons.

Johns was sentenced to six months confinement at Fort Knox, Ky. He was demoted two ranks to private first class and must forfeit two-thirds of his pay for six months.

Editor's note: This story first appeared in the June 26 issue of The Junction City Daily Union and is reprinted with permission of The Daily Union Editor Grey Montgomery.

Club selects NCOs in Iraq

Audie Murphy panel adds new members

By Matthew Wester
100th MPAD

TAJI, Iraq -- Twelve noncommissioned officers of 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, competed to join the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club while in Iraq June 18. Three earned membership in the elite organization.

The three new members are Staff Sgt. Rico Delafuente of the 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Carter of the 1st Battalion, 13th Armor and Staff Sgt. Larry Jones of the 596th Signal Company.

The Sgt. Audie Murphy Club's namesake was famous for his bravery in combat and his leadership abilities demonstrated in World War II. The club is a professional organization for Army NCOs.

Command Sgt. Maj. Philip Johndrow, the brigade's command sergeant major, served as ranking member and president of the board.

The command sergeants major of all the brigade's battalions sat on the board and asked the Soldiers questions on a variety of military topics.

They tested the candidates' knowledge of the Warrior Ethos, fundamentals of leadership, drill and ceremony and other topics related to leading troops.

They also presented hypothetical situations the applicants might face as leaders and evaluated solutions offered by the candidates.

All the staff sergeants and sergeants first class who participated volunteered for the chance to join the select group of Sgt. Audie Murphy Club members.

"The noncommissioned officers selected (for the club) are the best in the Army," said Command Sgt. Maj. Carlos Alers of 1st Bn., 13th Armor Regiment.

Staff Sgt. Samuel Cortijo of the 125th Forward Support Battalion was good to get feedback from the board members about what he needs to do as a troop leader. "It opened my eyes to a lot of things I need to do," he said.

The Soldiers participated in the board even though they are serving in a war zone performing their required duties. It was very important that the Soldiers get a chance despite the deployment, Alers said.

"The fact that the Soldiers are deployed shouldn't stop them from getting this opportunity," he said.

You can find the Fort Riley Post online at www.riley.army.mil





Post news in brief

Holiday alters trash pickup

The Fourth of July holiday will change the refuse pickup schedule at Fort Riley July 4-8.

The schedule is:
July 4 – No pick up, federal holiday in observance of Fourth of July

July 5 – Colyer Manor, Main Post, Marshall Field, dumpster at Building 621.

July 6 – Ellis Heights, O'Donnell Heights, Peterson Heights (north of Thomas Avenue) and dumpsters at Buildings 28, 45, 471, 540, 541 and 5309.

July 7 – Warner Heights, Burnside Heights and dumpster at Building 621. (No change from regular schedule.)

July 8 – Meade Heights, McClellan Heights, South Warner Heights, Peterson Heights (south of Thomas Avenue) and dumpster at Building 5309. (No change from regular schedule.)
For more information, call Paul Cassella at 239-6274.

Toastmasters slate meeting

The next Old Bill's Toastmasters meeting is scheduled from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. July 7 at the Junction City Fire Station No. 2.

Anyone from the Fort Riley and Junction City community interested in building leadership skills and overcoming the fear of public speaking is welcome to attend.

Meetings are free and open to the general public.

Old Bill's Toastmasters is a non-profit organization affiliated with Toastmasters International.

For more information and directions to the meeting location, call Jim Hill at 761-1130.

DoD improves Tricare for Reserves

By Donna Miles
AFPS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Defense Department has made tremendous efforts and strides to meet the needs of Reserve and Guard servicemembers who now qualify for health-care coverage under the Tricare program, the program's manager said June 8.

Dr. David Tornberg, acting deputy director of the Tricare Management Activity and deputy assistant secretary of defense for clinical and program policy, said the recent introduction of new patients into the Tricare system presents a challenge but that DoD is being very attentive to the needs of new Tricare participants.

Thousands of Reserve and Guard servicemembers and their families became eligible to purchase health care insurance through Tricare in late April.

Congress authorized the new benefit, called Tricare Reserve Select, for reserve component members under the fiscal 2005 National Defense Authorization Act. The plan is designed to serve as a bridge for reserve component troops leaving active duty who aren't covered by civilian employer or other health insurance plans, according to defense officials.

Tricare Reserve Select is available to all reserve component troops who have been activated since Sept. 11, 2001, served in support of a contingency operation

and agree to continued service in the Selected Reserve.

To help ensure that licensed physicians across the nation accept these and other Tricare patients, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr. sent letters to national and state medical associations last August, seeking their support. The letter urged the associations to contact their members and encourage them to become Tricare providers and to treat "America's heroes – the people making sacrifices to keep our country safe and strong."

In addition, the Tricare Management Activity is surveying 20 U.S. metropolitan areas to determine what Tricare resources are avail-

able and whether they're sufficient to meet the current need, said Air Force Maj. Michael Shavers, a Pentagon spokesman.

The survey results will help DoD identify areas where beneficiaries may run into difficulties getting access to Tricare services and to help resolve those problems, Shavers said.

A similar survey was conducted last year, as required by the 2004 National Defense Authorization Act legislation.

As DoD works to increase the number of Tricare providers and improve access to the network, Tornberg noted that 80 percent of Guard and Reserve members called to active duty already are covered by another form of health

insurance.

After 30 days on active duty, they qualify for full benefits under the Tricare system – a system Tornberg said has one of the most generous and robust benefits available in the health insurance market.

Legislation introduced in the Senate would further expand healthcare benefits for the Guard and Reserve by allowing them to enroll in the program for a monthly premium, regardless of their duty status. Defense Department officials are studying the legislation, Tornberg said.

More information about Tricare, including a description of services available by location, is posted on the Tricare Web site.

Soldier Show takes operation on road

By Tim Hippias

USACFSC Public Affairs



USACFSC/Hippias

Sgt. Chaney Mosely of Fort Dix, N.J., sings Bowling For Soup's "1985" during rehearsals for the 2005 U.S. Army Soldier Show.

FORT BELVOIR, Va. – The 2005 U.S. Army Soldier Show unveils "Operation America Cares" in its debut performance May 6 at Fort Belvoir's Wallace Theater.

The 90-minute song and dance production expresses the importance of giving deployed Soldiers a touch of home, show promoters said.

After three shows at Fort Belvoir, the 19-Soldier troupe is scheduled for 102 performances across America, in Korea and at Camp Zama, Japan. It comes to McCain Auditorium in Manhattan for Fort Riley audiences Aug. 3 and 4.

The six-and-a-half-month tour will end Nov. 13 at Fort Belvoir, home of the Army Entertainment Division.

The show is one of more than 50 programs provided to Soldiers and their families by the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center based in Alexandria, Va.

"The message of the show is that it doesn't matter how tough we are and it doesn't matter how fit to fight we are, Soldiers are still human and longing for the familiar and America's affection," Soldier Show Director Victor Hurtado said.

The cast and crew will attempt to bring his vision to life with musical genres including rhythm and blues, new rock, country, gospel, eclectic new wave/new age, patriotic and newly arranged movie themes. Calling the show "our gift to the American Soldier," Hurtado stressed his desire to leave audiences with a sense of newfound knowledge.

"It's not just about singing and dancing; it's about each audience member getting something out of it – being entertained, being moved, being inspired," he said. "We want to give them something to think about until next year – lift their spirits and grow their minds."

The show will focus on how Soldiers deal with the stresses of war and long deployments, Hurtado said. In one scene, a crate stuffed with recreation kits arrives

from the Army's Morale, Welfare and Recreation headquarters.

"The show is really going to focus on how we take 'home' to the deployed Soldiers," said Hurtado, who performed in the Soldier Show from 1986 through '89 while on active duty.

While DVDs and CDs can help Soldiers combat stress, nothing boosts morale quite like personal contact from home, Hurtado said. The reinforcing feeling that everything is OK often makes a world of difference.

"I would say the popularity of the show has grown exponentially, and it has a different face now," said Hurtado, who has built the 2005 touring show upon the "Heart of a Soldier" theme of last year's show by sticking with a military storyline. "We're going to continue with our efforts to not just humanize the Soldier to the American public but to show the different facets of a Soldier."

"We want to recognize that they're over there protecting us," said Executive Producer Joey Beebe, a former Soldier Show performer in his fourth season on the production team. "To immor-

talize them in our show is our way of showing that we understand and recognize what they're doing for this country."

More than 400 Soldiers submitted applications to perform in the Soldier Show.

Twenty-five were invited for live auditions, and 16 made the final cut. Three audio and lighting technicians will accompany them on tour.

Staff Sgt. Joanne Makay, a member of the 2003 cast, is the lone returning Soldier Show performer. During her last tour, she sang "Heat Wave," "Something Worth Leaving Behind" and a medley of Irving Berlin's tunes.

"She has quite a presence in the show," Hurtado said about Makay, who sang with Wynonna Judd at the 2003 U.S. Army Birthday Ball.

From one of AED's sister programs, the Army's Margaret "Skipper" Lynn Stars of Tomorrow Talent Contest, Hurtado discovered SPC Allison Carpenter, SPC Chris Ekstrom, 1st Lt. Christina Fanizzi, SPC Rondi Edward, Staff Sgt. Kent Kramer and SPC David Linton II.

SCREEN MACHINE
2 x 2
Black Only
202 Screen Mach July TF

COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
2 x 2
Black Only
202 Coll Height TF June

THE COLUMBIAN
2 x 6
Black Only
206 Columbian 6/26 4684 pk

SPRINT-NEBRASKA PRESS
4 x 10.5
Black only
#015908 This is the





U.S. ARMY RESERVES- ARMED FORC
6 x 21.25"
Black Only
#574413



Post news in brief

Publications class scheduled

A publications management class is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. July 6 and 7 in Building 7305, Troop Schools. This class is mandatory for all primary publications clerks and is recommended for publications officers.

To register for the class or for more information, call Jo Ann Williams at 239-3881.

Old oil, antifreeze must go to center

Post residents are reminded to place used motor oil and antifreeze in proper containers and take them to the Automotive Skills Center, 7753 Apennines Drive on Custer Hill, or the Household Hazardous Waste Facility at the Environmental Waste Management Center in Building 1945, Camp Funston.

It is illegal to throw used oil and antifreeze into refuse dumpsters or pour them down storm drains.

For more information, call the Automotive Skills Center at 239-9764 or 239-4028, the waste facility at 239-6797 or Jill Dalton at 239-2385.

Irwin offers eye appointments

Military family members and military retirees can schedule optometry appointments at Irwin Army Community Hospital.

To schedule an appointment, call 239-DOCS or (888) 239-3627.

Reward offered for theft info

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is offering a \$500 reward for information concerning the theft of a motorcycle on post.

The blue and white Yamaha YZ125 dirt bike was reportedly stolen sometime between midnight March 17 and 8:45 a.m. March 18 from the parking lot next to Building 7846.

Anyone with information about this theft should contact the Fort Riley CID office at DSN 856-8641 or at 239-8641 or call the local military police station.

Troop clinic offers services

Behavioral health services are now available at the Consolidated Troop Medical Clinic. Any active duty Soldier can speak with a credentialled social worker in the clinic from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

No appointment is necessary; services are provided on a walk-in basis.

Soldiers can visit the clinic specifically for behavioral health services or can be seen in conjunction with a medical appointment. Issues such as sleep disturbance, family stress, grief/loss, combat stress and anger management can all be addressed.

For more information, call the CTMC at 239-4411.

IACH offers perinatal group

Irwin Army Community Hospital recognizes that the loss of an infant is a life-changing event for parents and has begun to incorporate the Resource Through Sharing Bereavement Services into its range of services.

The Perinatal Loss Support Group's goal is to provide services to families who impart on the long and difficult road to recovery in dealing with the loss of their child.

The group meets from 6 to 8 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month in the Education Professional Development Division classroom on the fourth floor of the hospital.

For more information, call Elizabeth Gray at 239-7681.

Cranes unload heavy equipment

Guard unit at Fort Riley to work on vehicles

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Heavy loads got a lift from a giant crane at the Fort Riley railroad June 24.

The crane contracted from a civilian company in Kansas City, Kan., lifted three tracked, 27-ton scoop loaders off railroad cars. They were among several pieces of heavy equipment unloaded for the 995th Maintenance Company, Kansas Army National Guard.

The wheeled trucks, trailers and rubber-tired bucket loaders included in the shipment were driven off the railcars and down a concrete ramp. Driving the tracked vehicles off the cars can cause some damage, said 1st Lt.

John Dumas, officer-in-charge at the railroad.

The 27-ton scoop loaders barely taxed the huge crane's capability. "They're only a third as heavy as an Abrams tank," Dumas said. Fort Riley also contracts the crane company whenever it needs to unload the M1 tanks, he said.

The equipment unloaded June 24 belongs to the 339th Engineer Company and returned to the states after two years in Iraq, said 2nd Lt. Mark Mullinax, 995th Maint. Co. maintenance officer. His unit was mobilized with the mission "to repair the equipment to mission capability," he said.

Members of the 995th Maint. Co. basically replace broken or damaged parts on the equipment,

Mullinax said. If other specialized work, such as fixing broken trailer tongues or straightening bent frames, is required, the equipment is shipped to places where that work can be done, he added.

The three scoop loaders were on the ground and rolling within two hours, even though the crane had to be moved once along the railcars and set up to lift off another loader.

"When we have a lot of tanks to unload, we use a rail switcher to move the cars," Dumas said. "It can take as long as 45 minutes to move the crane and set it back up and unload a piece of equipment, but when we move the railcars, we can unload a tank every 15 minutes."



Post/Heronemus

Railhead staff and members of the Kansas Army National Guard watch June 24 as a contracted crane crew hooks up the first of three tracked, 27-ton scoop loaders being delivered to Fort Riley for refurbishing after two years in Iraq.

AT&T-AFC
5 x 13"
Black Only
#574601 Being Deployed

MILITARY OUTLET
x 3"
Black Only
X3 MIL OUT TP 7/1 4943 ml



Commentary

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Fort Riley Post

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Riley Roundtable

This week's question:

Do you read the Post? If not, why? If you do, what more would you like to find in the post newspaper?



"I think the paper is really well-rounded on what is and what will be going on the post."

Paula Bertch
Military spouse
Home: St. Louis, Mo.



"Yes, it wasn't bad at all."

Sgt. David Long
In transit to Fort Hood, Texas
Home: Eagle Pass, Texas



"Yes, I think it should be more focused toward the Soldiers."

Sgt. David Long
1st Battalion, 41st Infantry
Home: Olympia, Wash.



"No, comics are all I read."

Sgt. Michael Lunt
Company B,
1st Battalion, 41st Infantry
Home: Gericho, Va.



"I think it's fine. It's similar to other military papers I've seen."

Roy Walker
American Eagle Intl.
PX vendor
Home: Clarksville, Tenn.

Next week's question:

What was your most memorable Fourth of July?

Opinions may be e-mailed to the editor at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or faxed to the editor at 239-2592. Opinions must reach the editor by close of business Tuesdays to appear in the following Friday's paper.

Editor's note: The following comments by Army Lt. Gen. John Vines, commander of Multinational Corps-Iraq, were made to Pentagon reporters via satellite and reported in an article written June 21 by AFPS Reporter Jim Garamone.

Any decision on U.S. troops levels in Iraq will be made in response to events on the ground. Commanders in the theater constantly discuss manning in the region. They make decisions based on actions in Iraq and what the future looks like.

At this point, I would not be prepared to recommend a draw-down prior to the (October) election, certainly not any significant numbers.

The Iraqis have had a number of successes since the Coalition Provisional Authority turned over sovereignty to the Iraqi government June 28, 2004.

Iraq held successful elections Jan. 30; the Iraqi National Assembly stood up; and the assembly is working on the Iraqi constitution. That document is due to be finished in August, and there will be a referendum on it

not later than Oct. 15.

In addition, the security forces of Iraq are continuing to make significant progress.

At this time last year, there was one battalion trained and equipped. Now more than 100 battalions of the Iraqi army are fielded, and over 80,000 other forces – border police, Ministry of Interior forces, Facilities Protection Services – have been fielded.

Their performance on the whole has been very good. They're well led, they've proven that they are patriotic, they're willing to fight and they do extraordinarily well.

And so my concern, quite frankly, is not about their ability to conduct the operations. It's about continuing to develop national capacity, so those forces can be fed, so those forces can be sustained with equipment and spare parts and replacement personnel and the like.

The insurgents are losing the battle for the sympathy of the Iraqi people. The insurgency is a narrow group of people. The level of support for violence is pretty narrow.

War in Iraq

Ground forces commander cites progress

The jihadists – Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's group is an example – are limited, but extremely violent. The jihadist movement has access to some technical capability, and it uses foreign fighters, historically, primarily to murder other Iraqis. It brings in foreigners, and they kill themselves and others, sometimes in vehicles, sometimes ... they'll put a vest on and detonate it among a group.

There also is a small group of Sunni religious extremists within Iraq. Their opposition to the new government is based on religious objections. Again, that group is quite small, but it is very violent.

There is also a grouping of former-regime elements, many with some military training, who have allied themselves with the jihadists. If they had a bumper sticker, it would probably say, 'If you liked Saddam, you'll love us,' because they want to resume power.

There is also a much larger group, principally Sunni Arabs, who want to see all foreign forces leave the country.

Insurgents in Iraq work in small cells, and evidence indicates that most Iraqis have turned

against the groups.

Two indicators the coalition uses to gauge Iraqi public opinion are recruiting for the Iraqi security forces and tips from Iraqis about anti-Iraqi forces. Recruiting remains very strong. Even though attacks on Iraqi security forces are approaching 70 per day, that trend remains strong. And tips from Iraqis are going up, not down, in response to the attacks.

One of the things we monitor very closely is how effective the attacks are. Because let's be honest about that, what they're attempting to do is to intimidate, threaten, coerce the population. And we see increased evidence that the population is rejecting the insurgency. It is rejecting attacks against the population.

Zarqawi insists that it is acceptable to murder innocent Muslims in the pursuit of his objectives. Iraqis obviously don't agree with that, because the number of tips from citizens is up. We see the population increasingly rejecting the insurgency at large. They want to see an Iraqi government that provides for its own security.

Military life

Exchange benefits worth fighting to keep

By Jon Connor
Master sergeant

Throughout my 19 years in the Army, I've heard and continue to hear a lot of bashing about the PX Exchange, commonly called the PX.

While some of the concerns are warranted, there is still plenty of good about the PX to keep me coming back.

I'll go as far as to say the PX is one reason, along with the commissary, that influenced me to make a career of the Army, so that I could continue to enjoy my privilege of shopping there throughout life.

Yes, indeed, it is a privilege. For if you are not affiliated with the military in some legal capacity that meets Department of Defense requirements, you aren't allowed to shop at these facilities.

Please understand when I say PX, I am also referring to the exchange stores at all Army posts, Air Force bases and even those stores at the Navy and Marine Corps installations worldwide.

So, what exactly do I like about the PX?

Well, for starters, I like the fact that I don't pay any tax. That's more money into my pocket. Can you imagine how much money I've saved during the past 19 years and will save throughout a lifetime?

I also like the deals the PX offers every week. I am a consumer in the truest sense. I look for bargains everywhere I go. Every time I walk into the PX or its related stores, I look for future flyers so I know what the sales items will be.

And then I buy.

As a master sergeant with a

family, you know I'm not rich, but I'm able through the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's competitive credit card rate to make big purchases if the need arises. Otherwise, I pay as I go and reap the benefits.

Some of the items I have bought on sale include televisions, stereo equipment, clothes and furniture. I'm not talking about some 10 to 20 percent sale, but sometimes as much as 75 percent off.

I still remember standing in line in Darmstadt, Germany, in the PX parking lot one night to buy a Green Bay Packer winter jacket for \$35. The original price was about \$125 to \$150.

I also will never forget "stealing" clothing – shirts, pants and jackets – the day after Christmas at the Fort Eustis, Va., PX. The items were about 90 percent off.

At Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., I bought a black leather jacket after the Christmas holidays.

I paid 50 percent off a price already marked 75 percent discount. Talk about dirt-cheap.

The memories and savings go on and on.

In all fairness to those other customers that think the PX could do a lot more, well they are right, too.

Here are some complaints I've heard: higher prices than off post; not enough assistants on the floor; price tags missing on some merchandise; unqualified department personnel; not enough variety; restrooms that need better cleaning and repair, and the list goes on.

I acknowledge these statements as part of the military culture. I try to find some good in the not-so-good, which of course is a matter of perspective.

The PX system, like everything else, is not perfect. The PX has signs posted all over saying it

has people that go off post and check the prices in the stores to ensure its patrons are getting a better deal.

Well, try as it may, I know its personnel are not checking every item, as that's simply impossible. I've seen better off-post prices in specific instances, especially for music and videos.

Nevertheless, the PX has a good return policy and will price match exact items off post.

Sometimes, no exact item exists off post, so I have to decide which model for the price am I going to spend my hard-earned money on.

It is this I feel is the main draw of the PX. I have a choice that is not afforded to the average American.

I can shop around and find the best deal that suits me, on post or off.

Either way I win.

Grunt By Wayne Udden

TODAYS TECHNOLOGY
IS GREAT,
BUT I CAN
ONLY CARRY
JUST SO MANY BATTERIES...



FORT RILEY POST

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What are your concerns or suggestions for improvement?

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Sex assault site launched

DoD creates prevention, information Web

By Jim Garamone
AFPS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Servicemembers who are victims of sexual assault or who need information on the Department of Defense policy on preventing sexual assaults can find the information at a new Web site.

The site, launched by Joint Task Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, is basically a consolidated place to go to for information, said Air Force Brig. Gen. K.C. McClain, JTF commander.

The site has links to all the services' Web sites related to the sex-

ual assault issue. It spells out what people can do if they are victims of sexual assault, the general said.

The designers of the new site, which went live the middle of June, had to name the site with the initials of the organization — sapr.mil — rather than something like "sexualassault.mil" because too many firewalls would block out a request under that name, the general explained.

The site is more than just a reporting site. If an individual has questions about the policy, the answers are available on the Web site. "Because it is a DoD site, one could access this one site and get

the overarching information," McClain said. "Since we link to the service Web sites, an individual could get that information, too."

If a commander or a first sergeant has questions, this site should provide the answers, but if not, they can send an e-mail via the site and a Joint Task Force member will answer.

McClain said the group already is thinking of improvements. "We will add other things as we get them done," she said. "We're readying a commander's checklist on sexual assault prevention, for example."



Post/Blackmon

Savoskey Jones with the DA Police washes the pepperspray out of his eyes.

Academy continued from page 1

mon said.

"The worst part was that I couldn't breathe," said Pfc. Steven Eodridge of the 116th Military Police Company. "I went through the first stage fine, but by the second one, I couldn't breathe and started to panic. I had to calm down before I moved on. By the third (stage), my sinuses were draining, and I couldn't say nothing."

As some students slowed down and looked as though they wanted to give up, their peers cheered them on, encouraging them to fin-

ish. All students completed their tasks and then headed for a water hose to flush out their eyes and comment on how the pepper spray felt.

"It really sucks," Eodridge said. "It's like 10 times worse than the CS chamber. I very seriously hope I never have to use this level of force on someone."

Being sprayed with pepper spray is one of the many training tasks students completed during the two-week academy. Other training included empty-handed self-defense, learning how to sub-

due a subject with the least amount of force possible, practicing mock maneuvers, spotting drunk drivers and engaging in live shooting.

The monthly MP Academy is one of the many joint efforts between the DA police and Fort Riley MPs. The academy is designed to train all police forces that work on Fort Riley.

"You can't just put someone on the road without training them. This is one more refresher — another tool in their toolbox," said instructor Sgt. Kevin Foxworth of the 523rd MP Co.

Assault continued from page 1

improve quality, safety, productivity and efficiency across many areas — from aviation to fleet management, education to defense.

DoD contracted Serco to improve the services' handling of sexual assault. Its services add to sexual assault services for minors and family members already provided by the Family Advocacy Program.

Victim advocates must also keep the identity of the victim confidential from superiors in the victim's chain of command, if that is what the victim wants. Restricting reports of a sexual assault is new to the Department of Defense's strategy in aiding assault victims.

A new DoD policy allows a victim to report the sexual assault without going through her or his chain of command except when

assaults involve three or more perpetrators or when the victim remains in danger of future assaults because of the perpetrator's proximity to the victim on a day-to-day basis, Garber said.

Sexual assault response coordinators, chaplains and medical providers could already keep assaults confidential from the chain of command before the new policy became effective, she said.

The new confidentiality policy went into effect June 14. A new Chapter 8 to Army Regulation 600-20 (Army Command Policy), which will include the confidentiality requirements and collateral duty requirements for victim advocates, has been staffed and awaits signature, Wheldon said.

The new confidentiality policy and presence of victim advocates in

each unit will not reduce the number of assaults, Garber said. However, it will very likely increase the number of victims willing to report those assaults, she said.

The Army leadership wants victims to report sexual assaults, Garber said. It is important to help victims deal with the assault. It's all about the wellness of Soldiers and family members, she said.

Wheldon served on the Office of the Secretary of Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence convened in the wake of sexual assault accusations at the U.S. Air Force Academy in recent years. The task force recommended that the armed services develop confidentiality rules for victims based on its findings. "Part of the success in civilian programs is the victim's choice of confidentiality," Wheldon said.

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DoD builds facility for response training

\$15M center to house equipment for dealing with weapons of mass destruction incidents

By Donna Miles
AFPS

First responders will soon have a state-of-the-art facility at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to hone the skills they'll need to deal with weapons of mass destruction and other chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological incidents.

Officials planned to break ground the last week of June for the Joint Emergency Responders Training Facility. When it opens in 2007, the facility will help give servicemembers from throughout the Defense Department as well as civilians from several federal agencies the skills they'll need when responding to a terrorist attack or other emergency, said Army Col. Don Bailey, commander of the 3rd Chemical Brigade.

The new facility is part of an extensive U.S. Chemical School program to better prepare Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, DoD civilians and civilians from six other federal agencies focused on homeland security and homeland defense.

Other initiatives, Bailey said, include more advanced systems to detect and identify contaminants, training that encompasses detection and identification as well as decontamination and an increased emphasis on hard-science skills.

The Chemical School anticipates a wholesale change in its training program within the next 12 to 18 months to reflect the increased need for capabilities required when dealing with biological or chemical agents, explosives, or radiological or nuclear devices such as "dirty bombs," he said.

"We're adapting our capabilities and abilities to the current operating environment and doing it as rapidly as we can," Bailey said.

The school's training has traditionally focused on battlefield operations but, since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, has put increased emphasis on homeland defense.

The Army Chemical School trains National Guard civil support teams that advise and assist civilian first responders and installation support teams that provide similar support to post commanders. Beginning in October, the school will train Army Reserve reconnaissance and decontamination teams that would provide backup support to National Guard civil support teams, Bailey said.

Other programs being taught or

soon to be introduced into the school's curriculum focus on first responders at military bases, staff planners and Chemical Corps members who could be called on to provide domestic reconnaissance and decontamination.

Bailey said the nature of terrorism, which aims to attract attention for a cause by inflicting fear, dictates that terrorists will look for more dramatic weapons when the shock effect of high explosives begins to wear off.

"They're looking for the biggest bang for their buck and running out of ways to get the effect they want," he said.

That makes chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons likely next choices for terrorists, he said.

An attack like the one in Tokyo's subway system in 1995, when terrorists released sarin gas,

could have a devastating effect if carried out using a more effective dispersal system, Bailey said. "It would spread terror everywhere," he said.

To prevent such a catastrophe or respond to it or others like it should they occur, Bailey said the Chemical Corps needs to bolster its capabilities and share its expertise with more first responders.

The new Joint Emergency Responders Training Facility promises to be a big step in that direction.

The \$15 million facility, expected to be completed in April 2007, will train an estimated 2,000 students a year from Army National Guard Civil Support Teams, Army chemical units with a domestic homeland-security response mission, DoD emergency-response teams and chemical-biological-radiological-

nuclear installation-support teams.

The new center will feature two large decontamination bays and an urban exercise training area, complete with a factory, post office and two warehouses, where students test for contaminants, evacuate the area, then conduct decontamination.

The center will include a simulation area for virtual emergency-response training, a simulated cave complex that includes a clandestine laboratory for confined-space training, an overturned tanker truck to be used for spill-response training and a rail yard facility, Bailey said.

"This facility will serve as the national training center for all WMD people," he said. "When it opens, it will become the epicenter for this type of training."

Army streamlines Reserve to active duty transfers

Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Army is implementing new policies and procedures for the voluntary enlistment and transfer of mobilized reserve-component Soldiers into the Regular Army.

The changes are designed to ensure a seamless transfer from one component to another that is consistent with the continuum of service concept, Army personnel officials said.

Currently the process requires mobilized RC Soldiers with fewer than 18 years of service to be demobilized and processed through a Military Entrance Processing Station before enlistment into the Regular Army.

Under the new procedures, Soldiers will be able to apply while mobilized, at the demobilization station or while on leave after process and in most cases not have to process through the MEPS.

Upon approval by the Army's deputy chief of staff, G1, the Soldiers will be demobilized and separated from the reserve component and accessed into the Regular Army, thus eliminating the MEPS. Soldiers may apply to transfer from the RC to Regular Army within six months of their projected demobilization or release from active duty date to include time at the demobilization site.

Soldiers who have out-processed from the demobilization

site but are granted leave en route to their parent unit may also apply for enlistment in the regular army under this policy before the end date of their leave, officials said, because they have not been released from active duty. This limitation does not apply to RC Soldiers with 18 years active service currently serving on active duty, officials said, adding that these Soldiers may apply at any time.

All requests for conditional release will be processed through the RC, where recommendations will be made regarding each

request. However, the final approval for all requests for release rests with Headquarters, Department of the Army.

Once the Soldiers have enlisted in the Regular Army, they will remain with their current unit of assignment until it redeployes to the demobilization station, then he or she will be reassigned to a new duty station.

This is a voluntary program that requires the release approval from the Reserve chiefs or designees,

personnel officials said. They said it is purely intended to benefit Soldiers by streamlining the transfer process and not exacerbate any shortages within the reserve-component ranks.

The Army has also taken steps to offset this policy in a manner favorable to the reserve component:

- Office of the Secretary of Defense policy relief to reduce military service obligation at the time of AC to RC transfer for commitment to serve in a Reserve unit,

- Increase of the RC affiliation bonus from \$50 a month to \$10,000; and

- A 12-month mobilization deferment for active Soldiers who join a Reserve unit after a recent deployment.

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Post news in brief

Civilians must attend training

All civilian employees are required to receive anti-terrorism awareness training on an annual basis. Initial training must be conducted in person with a trained anti-terrorism Officer. Refresher training can be fulfilled by attending a session with a certified AT trainer or on-line at www.at-awareness.org (log-in "aware").

Anti-terrorism training is conducted at 9 a.m. every Thursday in the Patton Hall auditorium, 200 Henry Avenue. The training is scheduled to run until 10:30 a.m.

DA civilian employees need to attend this training to meet the requirements for their initial AT training. Attendees will receive a training data sheet certificate.

As the population increases on Fort Riley, auditorium seating will become more difficult. Patton Hall's auditorium seating can accommodate about 250 people.

Contact Capt. Rob Ruskiewicz at 239-6044 Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon to verify seating availability.

13th Armor, Civil Affairs troops aid farmers

By Matthew Wester
100th MPAD



100th MPAD/Wester

Maj. Robert Scott, a public health team chief for the 443rd Civil Affairs Bn., vaccinates a water buffalo for worms on a veterinary mission northwest of Baghdad June 14.

TAJI, Iraq — "Iraqis know agriculture. This is the fertile crescent, where it all started," said Maj. Robert Scott, a veterinarian with the 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion. "Right now, they just need a little bit of help."

Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 13th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division; the 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion; and the 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion provided that help for farmers northwest of Baghdad during a veterinary aid mission June 14.

"We're establishing a community relationship," said Capt. David M. Sturtz, a team leader for Company B, 403rd CA Bn. "We're letting the Iraqi farmers know the coalition is here to help."

The Soldiers focused on vaccinating water buffalo, cows and sheep against common diseases and parasites.

"Basically, we treated for worms and liver flukes," Scott said. "We're doing some good things and using some very good medications."

"Liver flukes can cause hydatid cysts," he said.

Scott said liver flukes are a serious public health threat to local livestock and to Iraqi citi-



zens because they can be transmitted to humans.

The animals were also given medication to prevent intestinal worms, Scott said.

Scott teamed up with a veterinarian who works for the Iraqi government to treat the animals.

They worked side-by-side to inoculate as many animals as they could.

"It helps with the initial meeting with the people to have an Iraqi veterinarian working with us," Sturtz said. "They work as a conduit between us and the community."

Sturtz said the Iraqi agriculture ministries are taking a more active role in helping Iraqi farmers, and having a government veterinarian along to help with the mission is part of that program.

"There are some very good people in the agricultural ministries," Scott said. "They are working hard to find out how many animals there are, what kind of diseases they have and what they need to do to help."

During the mission, the Sol-

diers concentrated on vaccinating animals in one small village and farms adjacent to the village. They made contact with individual families and consulted with them about the health of their livestock.

The families were receptive to the Soldiers, as they had been during previous missions to the area. "Every time we had been to that village, we had been welcomed," Sturtz said.

Sturtz said the village was small and didn't contain a large amount of livestock, but word will spread to other areas about the help the U.S. and Iraqi veterinarians provided.

"Even though we saw a limited area, the impact will be sizeable," he said.

The Soldiers spread that impact even wider later in the mission.

On the way back to Camp Taji, they were delayed when the smoldering wreckage of a previously detonated car bomb blocked their route.

While waiting for the site to be cleared, the troops took advantage of the opportunity and visited a farm in the affected area and vaccinated several cows and sheep.

Sturtz believes these missions build a good foundation for future community-building activities.

"We can go into these communities and do more," he said.

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125th FSB provides behind-scenes support

By Matthew Wester
100th MPAD

TAJI, Iraq – For every combat arms Soldier on the ground, many Soldiers behind the scenes make sure they are well supplied and healthy and their warfighting equipment is working.

The 125th Forward Support Battalion Soldiers provide that support for 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. They fulfill that mission while assuming additional responsibilities to ensure the brigade meets its goals while deployed.

"Our mission is to support the brigade. It's something I try to impart to everyone that comes into the battalion," said Lt. Col. Jack Hinkley, 125th FSB's commander. "Support covers a wide range of subjects. We have our normal maintenance, supply, medical functions, but this rotation we're picking up a lot of transportation, and we're picking up (responsibility for) the (brigade detention facility)."

Just about anything the brigade needs that is support-related, they call us," he said.

One of those needs is to have equipment ready for missions. The battalion's Company B makes sure that happens.

"We conduct direct support maintenance for the entire brigade," said Capt. Craig B. Boston, Co. B commander.

Boston said his company replaces major parts on vehicles, maintains and fixes weapons systems, repairs communications equipment and recovers damaged vehicles outside the post.

"We have a bay shop which consists of six teams, and we have five teams with the supported units," he said. "We have our normal mission, which is maintenance, but we also have our missions which are not doctrinal."

The company provides Soldiers to staff the brigade detention facility and the battalion's personal security detail.

Female Soldiers of Co. B also are sometimes called upon to search Iraqi females on patrols.



100th MPAD/Wester
Pvt. Josh B. Dennis, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with Co. B, 125th FSB, repairs an electric light set at the Co. B maintenance facility.

"Maintenance is very important. This is a very harsh environment on the vehicles and equipment," Boston said. "Being a mechanic is not a glamorous role, but the fact is, people couldn't operate without us."

But, mechanics can't repair equipment without the proper parts. Company A Soldiers get those parts and get them they are needed.

"On a daily basis, we are providing different classes of supplies for the 3rd Brigade," said Capt. James E. Gee, Co. A commander.

Gee said much of the company's job is to store, track and deliver repair parts for combat vehicles.

The company runs warehouses and a supply yard on post. It also recovers vehicles that have broken down or been damaged on the roads outside Camp Taji.

Keeping vehicles and equipment running is a major part of what the 125th FSB Soldiers do, but keeping 3rd Bde. Soldiers healthy also is part of their mission.

The battalion's medical component, Company C, staffs the "Cobra" troop medical clinic at Camp Taji. It also embeds medics

with the brigade's combat units and provides various other medical services.

"We provide combat health support to the brigade. We are the next level above a battalion aid station," said Sgt. 1st Class Henry W. Chapman, Co. C's first sergeant.

Chapman said the company took over an existing site and turned it into a well-stocked, efficient treatment facility.

The clinic provides all the services of a battalion aid station plus lab, dental, x-ray and trauma services, said Capt. Peter A. Ramos, Co. C commander.

"The bulk of our mission has been sick call," he said. "We have had some trauma. Thankfully, it hasn't been much."

"We treat any traumas that come through the door," said Dr. (Maj.) Gregory Martin, clinic physician with Co. C. "We try to stabilize the patient and put them on a helicopter (to be transported to better facilities) for definitive care."

The company is prepared to deal with medical emergencies outside the clinic, rushing to Soldiers who need medical treatment on or off Camp Taji.

"At all times, we maintain two ambulance crews ready to roll on a moment's notice," Ramos said.

The company's medical providers also care for detainees in the brigade detention facility. "We see the detainees daily," Martin said. "We provide very good care for the detainees."

The 125th FSB also provides Soldiers to guard the detainees.

not only provides medics to treat detainees, but also provides Soldiers to guard them, not a typical duty for a support battalion Soldier.

"What we've done to man the (facility) is pull people from throughout the battalion – cooks, mechanics, clerks. We've brought them all together, given them military police training and made them our staff out there," Hinkley said.

"We've put them under our Headquarters and Headquarters Company, and it's been working out really well," he said.

Sgt. First Class Jonathan Horsager, first sergeant for HHC, said the Soldiers have become a good team, and young leaders have emerged in the platoon-sized element that runs the facility that temporarily houses brigade detainees.

Another additional task for the battalion is staffing a personal security detachment.

The PSD accompanies the battalion commander on missions off-post and escorts other troops who need extra security on operations outside the wire.

"Any time there is a brigade asset that doesn't have a security element or doesn't have enough vehicles to make up a convoy, we will go ahead and augment them, take them where they need to go and provide security for them," said 1st Lt. James McWherter, the detachment's commander.

McWherter said his detail is

made up of Soldiers from diverse military occupational fields who have received new training and come together to work as an effective team.

The battalion as a whole is just as diverse.

"No two platoons in my battalion are alike," Hinkley said. "There are approximately 70 different military occupational specialties in the battalion."

Hinkley said it takes close management on behalf of his support operations section to try to pull all the different skill sets together and make a good team. Experience among the staff has helped maximize the effectiveness of that management, he said.

"I was here in Operation Iraqi Freedom I and I learned a lot as the brigade (logistics officer)," said Maj. Mike O'Neil, support opera-

tions officer for the 125th FSB "I know a lot of people in the brigade, and that has helped me out in understanding its needs."

Hinkley's previous experience in armored and mechanized units has helped him lead efficiently, he said. "I have been a support operations officer in a heavy unit, so I'm very familiar with what the maneuver task forces want, what they expect from an FSB and what they need to maintain their combat power."

Hinkley said he is proud of his battalion's versatility, adaptability and ability to supply units who are long distances away from Camp Taji, like 3rd Bde's 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, based at Forward Operating Base St. Michael on the far southern end of the Task Force Baghdad area of operation.

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Page 11

Sports news in brief

Speedway tickets offered

The U.S. Army Racing Program is donating about 20 tickets for the Indy Racing League. The race will be held at the Kansas City Speedway on July 3. Soldiers interested in obtaining IRL tickets should call Teresa Mayes at the Information, Ticketing and Registration Office, (785) 239-5614.

Sports, pool activities set

July 5 – 7 to 8:30 p.m., Mommy and Me Time at Main Post Pool

July 5 – 9:45 to 10:45 a.m., Cardio Training Express I

July 6 – 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., Cardio Pump Aerobics

June 7 – noon to 1 p.m., Fitness Yoga

July 7 – 9:45 to 10:45 a.m., Cardio Training Express II

July 9-10 – One-pitch softball tournament, \$40 entry fee

July 12 – 1:30 p.m., company level flag football athletic and recreation representatives meeting

Fridays – 7 to 10 p.m., open session roller skating, Riley Wheels Skating Rink at King Field House

Saturdays – 6 to 8 p.m., and 8 to 10 p.m., open session roller skating (\$1.25 stay-over fee for second session), Riley Wheels Skating Rink at King Field House

Sundays – 2 to 4 p.m., family skate session, \$1 per family member, Riley Wheels Skating Rink at King Field House

For more information, call 239-2813.

Family Nights held at pools

Families can make a real splash and have lots of fun at the Custer Hill and Main Post pools' Family Fun Nights.

Family Fun Night activities include swim, listening to music and frolicking on the giant inflatable obstacle course.

Family Fun Night costs \$5 per family and \$1 for each additional guest (passes not included).

Family Fun Nights will be: **July 8** – 7 to 9 p.m. at Main Post Pool

July 22 – 8 to 10 p.m. at Custer Hill Pool

For more information, call 239-2813.

Rec staff plans canoe trips

The Outdoor Recreation Center staff will be offering canoe trips July 30 and Aug. 20. Each trip will start at 9 a.m. and participants will be home around 3 p.m.

Participants will float from the U.S. Highway 24 bridge to St. George.

The \$15 fee includes canoe, paddles, life vest and transportation to and from the Outdoor Recreation Center.

For more information or to register, call 239-2363.

Youth bowling camps planned

Two youth bowling camps are planned this summer at the Custer Hill Bowling Center on post. Each camp will be two weeks long and cost \$100 per person. Camps will be July 11-22, and Aug. 4-12.

For more information, call (785) 738-7104 or the Custer Hill Bowling Center at 239-4366.

Wrestlers advance to world meet

By Tim Hipps
Army News Service

AMES, Iowa – Two Soldiers earned berths in the 2005 World Wrestling Championships during the U.S. World Team Trials June

18-19 at Hilton Coliseum.

Reigning national champions Dremiel Byers and Iris Smith earned spots on the U.S. team scheduled to compete Sept. 24-Oct. 3 in the World Championships at Budapest, Hungary. They are members of the Army

World Class Athlete Program stationed at Fort Carson, Colo.

Tina George, another reigning national champion WCAP wrestler, received a medical exemption from the World Team Trials because of a partially torn medial collateral ligament in her

right knee. She will get an opportunity to make Team USA during the 2005 U.S. Junior National Wrestling Championships in late July at Fargo, N.D.

George will square off against Sunkist Kids' Marcie Van Dusen for the U.S. women's 121-pound

freestyle spot in the World Championships.

Winners of the World Team Trials challenge tournament June 18 at Iowa State University took on the reigning national champi-

See *Wrestlers*, Page 12

Play ball!

Third stanza gives Cavalry big headache

By Stephanie Perrin
Staff writer

The Cavalry's leadoff batter galloped across home plate to open the first inning against the 383rd Regiment June 21. Some fielding errors helped him get around the bases, but the Cavalry's charge ended quickly as the 383rd bats corralled Troop D, 4th Cavalry, 19-9 in one of the 6 p.m. games at the softball complex.

It took the 383rd until the bottom of the second to match the Cavalry's mark. Jason McCaslin did it with an out-of-the-park homerun that started the 383rd's scoring. They led 3-1 by the end of the second inning.

The Cavalry would see their offense turned back consistently until they scored again in the fifth inning.

The 383rd stepped to the plate in the third inning with the pitcher's number well in hand. They batted through their whole line-up and hit one grand-slam homer, two triples and several doubles before the Cavalry caught a 383rd runner at home for the final out of the inning.

But, the damage was done. The 383rd led 13-1.

It looked like the 383rd would mimic their high-scoring third-inning performance when they started the bottom of the fourth inning with a homerun that scored two runs. The Cavalry reined in the 383rd's bats to squish any more runs, leaving them behind 15-1.

The Cavalry's offense rallied in the top of the fifth inning. They batted through their line-up to score eight runs and loaded the bases for three more potential runs. Then, the 383rd defense executed a double play and tried to send the Cavalry back to their "dugout."

The 383rd responded with four more runs in the bottom of the fifth and the referee called the game at the end of the allotted hour, leaving the Cavalry on the short end of a 19-9 score.



Post/Heronemus
Troop D, 4th Cav.'s, Michael Delgado slides into home while 383rd Regt.'s Martin Miller reaches for the tag. Watching the play develop is 383rd's pitcher, Jason McCaslin, who provided backup for the throw home June 21 during company level softball play at Fort Riley. The 383rd won the game 19-9.

Army shooters capture medals

Marksmen dominate championships

Army News Service

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Soldiers of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit brought home 12 individual medals from the USA Shooting 2005 National Pistol and Rifle Championships the end of June.

USA Shooting's last Olympic events – Men's Rapid Fire Pistol and Women's Sport Rifle – wrapped up June 24 at the rifle and pistol ranges on Fort Benning.

Sgt. Keith A. Sanderson of the Army Marksmanship Unit won his second event of the National Championships when he came back from being in second place going into the finals to once again finish in front in Rapid Fire Pistol.

Sanderson beat John Bickar by less than a point on the last series to finish with a 1,337.4 and the gold medal. Staff Sgt. John C. Ennis, also of the AMU, took the bronze medal with a 1,332.0, while Cody Maxwell took fourth with a 1,307.7.

Maxwell will join Sanderson on the U.S. Team that will compete in the Championships of Americas Games – called the CAT Games – in this event. The U.S. CAT Team is open to U.S. juniors and first-year National Team members.

The CAT Games, Campeonato de Tiro de las Americas, is the shooting championships for the western hemisphere conducted every four years. The CAT Games is one of four big international matches – along with the Olympics, World Championships and Pan American Games – where shooters can win medals and set world records.

At the CAT games in Puerto Rico in November, USA shooters will compete against other teams from North, Central and South America for the title of being the best in the Americas.

In the non-Olympic events June 25 and 26, Bickar took the gold medal in the Standard Pistol Championship; Sanderson received the silver medal and two-time Olympian Sgt. 1st Class Daryl L. Szarenski got the bronze medal. Bickar also won the gold medal in the Center Fire Pistol Championship; Ennis took the silver medal and Staff Sgt. Thomas A. Rose got the bronze.

The USAMU Team of Sanderson, Szarenski and Ennis won the Standard Pistol Team gold medal and the USAMU Team of Rose, Sgt. 1st Class Eric G. Daniels and Staff Sgt. Robert M. Mango won the gold medal in the Center Fire Pistol Team match.

In Men's 50-Meter Free Pistol June 21, Sanderson won the National Championship and the gold medal with a score of 1,195.1. Szarenski was in first place going into the finals, but

See *Shooters*, Page 12





Wrestlers

continued from page 11

ons in their respective divisions June 19 in a best-of-three championship series.

Byers, the 2002 Greco-Roman heavyweight world champion, atoned for a recent loss to New York Athletic Club's Russ Davie of Colorado Springs by winning the 264.5-pound division two matches to none.

"Byers showed tonight how dominant he is," Army coach Shon Lewis said. "He has the total package. He can finesse you, he can beat you up. Right now, he's tracking right along."

Byers said he's been "very hungry" to get back on the World Team since longtime rival and training partner Rulon Gardner retired.

"In order to keep getting our flag raised and our song played, somebody's got to carry it," Byers said.

Smith made her third World Team by defeating 2004 national champion Ali Bernard of New Ulm, Minn., in the women's 158.5-pound freestyle finals.

A four-time national champion who last qualified for the World Championships in 2001 but missed the event to attend Army basic training, Smith defeated Ulm two matches to none.

"This is something I've been doing since I was 15 and I've channeled my life around, so it means a great deal," Smith said.

Two WCAP wrestlers – James Johnson and Glenn Garrison – won their challenge tournaments but lost in the championship rounds.

Johnson stepped down a weight class and rumbled through Sunkist Kids' Jeremiah Davis, U.S. Olympic Education Center's Kerry Regner and Gator

Wrestling Club's Willie Madison in the 132-pound Greco-Roman challenge tournament. He lost two consecutive matches of the championship finals to New York Athletic Club's Joe Warren.

Garrison won the first match of his 145.5-pound Greco-Roman championship series against Gator Wrestling Club's Harry Lester of Akron, Ohio.

Garrison injured his right shoulder while losing the second rugged round late in the third period. In the deciding match, Lester prevailed in two periods to make his first World Team.

Top-seeded Keith Sieracki lost a controversial match to New York Athletic Club's T.C. Dantzer, a two-time World Team member, in the 163-pound Greco-Roman finals of the challenge tournament.

Sieracki rebounded the next day to finish third with a throw-filled, two-period victory over Jake Fisher of Platte City, Mo.

Marcel Cooper lost to Garrison in the finals of the challenge tournament and settled for fourth place after losing on criteria to Gator Wrestling Club's Mark Rial in a two-period battle for third.

Oscar Wood, a 2004 Olympian, got pinned by New York Athletic Club's Mike Ellsworth in a 145.5-pound Greco-Roman quarterfinal match in the challenge tournament.

Lewis said the Army team's performance was like "a little honey, a little vinegar."

"I'm not satisfied, but by no means am I disappointed," he said. "We had five guys in the finals and came away with two victories. We showed some resilience and we showed that the Army team is still rolling."



Contact sport

At left: MEDDAC's Rene Castellanos fails to get back to first base as 15th Finance's Latoya Watley tags him out June 21.

At right: Jeremy Corbett catches a fly to right field while colliding with fellow 15th Finance player Kendrick Young. MEDDAC defeated 15th Finance 19-2 in the company level softball game June 21.

Post/Heronemus



Shooters

continued from page 11

after a gun malfunction had to borrow one of his teammate's guns, putting him at a great disadvantage.

Sanderson and Rose made the CAT Games Team in Free Pistol and the USAMU Team of Szarenski. Rose and Ennis won the Free Pistol Team Match gold medal.

In Women's 25-Meter Sport Pistol, three-time Olympian Rebecca "Beki" Snyder of Grand Junction, Colo., won the gold.

Snyder went into the Sport Pistol finals with a three-point lead on her next competitor Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Elizabeth "Libby" Callahan of Upper Marlboro, Md.

Snyder finished with a 1,354.8 compared to Callahan's second place total score of 1,351.4.

Olympic gold medalist Matt Emmons won the Men's 10-Meter

More results

For complete results of the 2005 National Championships, log on to www.usashooting.org.

Air Rifle gold medal with a 1,291.5, one point over two-time Olympian Sgt. 1st Class Jason A. Parker, who took the silver.

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Team of Parker, 1996 Olympian Lt. Col. Robert E. Harbison and Spc. Henry "Hank" L. Gray won the Men's Air Rifle Team Match.

In the Men's Air Pistol competition June 18, Szarenski won the gold medal with a 1,259.4, four points above 2004 Olympian

Jason Turner.

Rose took the bronze medal with a 1,247.6 and placed on his first USA Shooting National Team.

Stephen Swartz was the next competitor to qualify and finished in sixth with a 1,234.0.

The USAMU Team of Szarenski, Rose and Ennis won the Air Pistol Team Match.

University of Alaska-Fairbanks graduate Joe Hein won the gold medal with a 1,297.4 in the Men's Free Rifle Prone event.

U.S. Naval Reserve Lt. Eric Uptagraff of Longmont, Colo., and a 1996 Olympian, took the silver medal with a 1,296.2. Two-time Olympian Sgt. 1st Class Thomas A. Tamas of Columbus, Ga., received the bronze medal with a 1,296.0.

Going to the CAT Games in

this event will be Joseph Hall and Chris Abalo of Glendora, Calif. The USAMU Team of Tamas, Parker and Sgt. Shane M. Barnhart won the Prone Rifle Team Match.

In the Men's Three-Position Free Rifle competition, U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Deputy Commander Robert W. Aylward got the silver medal in the Senior Division.

The USAMU Team of Parker, Barnhart and 2004 Olympic silver medalist Maj. Michael E. Anti won the Three-Position Rifle Team Match.

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit hosted the USA Shooting National Championships for International Rifle and International Pistol June 16 to 26 at Phillips and Pool ranges at Fort Benning.

Golfers offered tips



Tom Pettegrew (left) helps Ted Parks with his swing at a golf clinic June 23 at Custer Hill Golf Course on post. Other clinics are scheduled. For more information, call the clubhouse at 239-5412. Post/Blackmon

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Fort Riley Community Life

Thursday, June 30, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Page 13

Community news briefly

Support center classes posted

July 7 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Family Assistance and Point of Contact Training

July 7 and 8 - Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training

July 8 - 8:30 a.m. to noon, Spouse Orientation

For more information, call the Soldier and Family Support Center at 239-9435.

BOSS plans meeting

The next meeting of Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is scheduled for 3 p.m. July 6 at the Directorate for Morale, Welfare and Recreation headquarters.

For more information, call 239-8147.

Auto repair class slated

A basic auto repairs class will be conducted at the Automotive Skills Center on Custer Hill from 6 to 7 p.m. July 7.

For more information, call the Automotive Skills Center at 239-9764.

Bible school set for August

Children ages five through 10 can take part in Fort Riley's Vacation Bible School Aug. 1-5. The program will be held at the Morris Hill Chapel from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The registration deadline is July 14.

For more information, contact Sister Caroline at 239-4815 or Don Ericson at 239-0979.

The program also is accepting adult and high school teen volunteers. Those interested in volunteering for the Vacation Bible School can contact Juli Kelly at 784-8333 or by sending e-mail to kellytroupe@earthlink.net.

Chaplain plans get-together

The installation chaplain will host an informal gathering of Soldiers, family members and civilian employees at 6 p.m. July 15 in Normandy Chapel on Custer Hill to assess the spiritual needs of Muslim personnel.

For more information, call Chap. (Col.) Kenneth Sampson at 239-3359.

Club members seek work

Members of Fort Riley's church youth group, Club Beyond, are looking for summer work. The club's "Teen for Hire" program offers teens to do yard work, baby-sitting and general labor tasks.

For more information or to employ a teen, call 210-6240.

Flashback party cancelled

The Retro Flashback Party planned for Riley's Conference Center July 29 has been cancelled.

For more information, call 784-1000.

Stay in Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.



Hands rub soil through a screen sifter while field trip participants search for archeological artifacts at Fort Riley.

Post/Heronemus

Society digs history

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Fourteen people dug for treasure on Fort Riley June 18, and they found a few things post archeologists kept.

The dig was part of a field trip for a few members of the Historical and Archaeological Society of Fort Riley, two archeologists, two graduate-student fellows and

some family members.

They spent the morning digging 12 shovel tests 60 centimeters deep and the diameter of a shovel blade, hunting for artifact concentrations. The "treasure" they found included numerous stone tool or arrowhead flakes, pieces of chert (stone) showing places where flakes had been removed, pieces of charcoal that will be used for carbon dating,

pieces of painted wood, some nails and the lead point from a bullet.

Post archeologists with the Conservation Division, Directorate of Environment and Safety, laid out the dig site in a measured grid marked by flags. The site lies about a quarter-mile northwest of Huebner Road next to Williston Point Road.

See Dig, Page 15

Stamped



Pvt. John Fritz of Btry. A, 1st Bn., 5th FA, serves beer to VIP ticket holders at Country Stampede. Fritz was one of the many Fort Riley volunteers working at the concert in return for tickets, seating and meals.

Post/Blackmon

Volunteers serve Stampede fans

By Stephanie Perrin
Staff writer

A free package that included T-shirts, two meals a day, three-day passes and seating next to the VIP section enticed some 300 Soldiers and family members to volunteer serving food and beverages at the 2005 Country Stampede June 23-26.

"Country Stampede couldn't survive without the hard work of Soldier volunteers," Volunteers' Manager Mick McCallister said.

The volunteers worked one five-hour shift each day during the four-day event. The shifts began at 9 a.m. and ran through midnight.

McCallister started planning the volunteer schedule in February and said the schedule is not completed until the day

before Stampede. Some of the volunteers have worked all 10 years of the event, McCallister said.

When creating the schedules, he said he tries to give everyone the schedule they request, but the participants who have volunteered the most number of years receive their desired schedules first.

The shifts were 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and 7 p.m. to midnight.

Spc. Dan Townsend of Company B, 101st Forward Support Battalion, said he had learned about the volunteer program from a notice posted at his company.

This was his first year volunteering at Stampede and he said he plans on volunteering again next year.

Soldier volunteers also help with the set-up and takedown of the stage and the clean-up of the Tuttle Creek State Park area after the event.

One hundred Soldiers are needed for set-up, 75 for take-down and 150 for the clean-up, McCallister said.



Spec. Gabriel Cruz of the 300th MP Co. grills some brats during Country Stampede. Cruz was one of numerous Fort Riley volunteers at the concert.

Post/Blackmon

Former Ranger 'serves' on stage

By Stephanie Perrin
Staff writer

With only three minutes left before he had to perform at the 2005 Country Stampede, Keni Thomas was busy signing autographs and T-shirts for Soldiers of Fort Riley's 300th and 977th Military Police Companies.

Thomas showed his gratitude to the Soldiers by giving them free autographed copies of his new album, "Flags of Our Fathers, A Soldier's Story," at a special "meet and greet" for the Soldiers.

The MPs also received backstage passes and were invited to sit on stage while Thomas performed.

"We're counting on you," Thomas said to the Soldiers during his performance.

A majority of the songs on his new album come from his personal experiences in the military, Thomas said.

He was a member of the Army Rangers and the Task Force Ranger assault unit that fought in the deadly Somalia battle portrayed in the book and movie "Black Hawk Down." The Soldiers of TFR were outnumbered 10-to-one, lost 18 Soldiers and had another 76 wounded, Thomas received a Bronze Star for his bravery in the battle.

"When you make it out of something like that, you spend the rest of your life thanking the guys who stand on your left and your right," Thomas said.

Thomas' new album features the song "Seven Days," which depicts his first visit to the Sunflower State, he said. The song describes Thomas' seven-day leave when he and an Army buddy came to Kansas to help on his friend's family farm.

He said he was excited to sing the song at Stampede because his friend,

See Singer, Page 14



Keni Thomas

Marriage and Military Life

Children learn how to love by watching parents

By Gene-Thomas Gomulka
Retired Navy chaplain

Dear Gene-Thomas, I'm writing to thank you for your book that my wife gave me three weeks ago in anticipation of Father's Day. After being married seven years, it helped us re-evaluate our priorities and identify ways in which we could be

better spouses and parents. ... I will encourage our chaplain to order some for other troops, particularly in light of our upcoming deployment.

— Bob

Dear Bob, I'm glad that you and your wife found "The Survival Guide for Marriage in the Military" helpful in your relationship. One

of the reasons I believe it was a very appropriate Father's Day present has to do with the saying, "The greatest gift a father can give his children is to love their mother."

By using this tool that has enhanced your love for your wife, you are also increasing your children's ability to give

See Military Life, Page 16

About the author

Gene-Thomas Gomulka is a retired Navy chaplain and author of "The Survival Guide for Marriage in the Military," available at www.plaintec.net

Have a question? Write Gene-Thomas at letters@plaintec.net





Post/Heronemus

No fan's too young

Country recording artist Chely Wright talks with Jacob Webb (top right), 6, his sister Autumn, 1 1/2, and their mother Marsha, after signing her autograph for the young fan. Wright stopped at the Post Exchange June 26 to spend an hour with fans before going on stage at the Country Stampede. Fans formed a line about 30 minutes before Wright arrived, and it stretched out the front door even 30 minutes into the session. Wright is scheduled to tour the Middle East, performing for U.S. servicemembers there in August.



Post/Blackmon

Country fans race through the gate to get good seats for Country Stampede at Tuttle Creek State Park June 24



Post/Blackmon

Fans brave temperatures in the high 90s to hear their favorite country artists at the four-day Stampede concert.



Post/D. Skidmore

PFC Brittany Strohbusch, 977th MP Co., waves to thousands of music fans after she exchanged guitars for Troy Gentry while the group Montgomery Gentry performed on stage.



Post/Blackmon

Keni Thomas signs 977th MP Co.'s Pfc. Jeremy Hall's T-shirt at Country Stampede June 24. Thomas met with several Fort Riley MPs before his performance. Thomas was an Army Ranger in Somalia at the time a Black Hawk helicopter was shot down.

Singer

continued from page 13

who is still in the Army, was there to watch him perform.

Thomas' tour manager and band members are former Soldiers from his Army Ranger unit. The band, Cornbread, has performed together for more than eight years, Thomas said.

"I had (the band) when I was still in the Army. We just didn't get to play much because we were always deployed," Thomas said. The band was named Cornbread after a nickname Thomas had received in the Army. A majority of the Rangers didn't like the cornbread served, and he got the nickname because he liked the bread and would eat the others' portions, Thomas has admitted.

"...so pretty soon I was getting pelted with the stuff. 'Hey, here you go, Cornbread,'" he said on

his Web site.

When Thomas completed his enlistment, he stayed in the Columbus, Ga., area to become a counselor at an outdoor therapeutic program for troubled youth. He enjoyed the program because it allowed him to utilize the outdoor survival skills he had learned from the Army.

"It was a good transfer job for somebody getting out of the military, in a position where I was," Thomas said. "It was out in the woods, so I could use the skills I learned from the Rangers to help these kids who really just needed guidance."

His band would perform twice a year in Columbus at the spring and fall festivals. They opened for performers such as Toby Keith, Montgomery Gentry and Sister

Hazel.

"At first, it was really hard to figure out if we were a classic rock or country band," Thomas said. "It turns out the country fans are just great, and that's where I need to be."

The band had performed at the Army's Birthday Celebration the weekend before Country Stampede.

"It was a privilege and great honor to sing at the Army's Birthday and the Pentagon," he said. "I was able to sing to an appreciative crowd, who just got what I was saying. It was awesome."

Thomas also is a national spokesman for the Hero Fund and Special Operations Warrior Foundation. The programs provide college education to the children of special ops personnel killed dur-

ing combat or training. The band is donating a portion of the record sales to those organizations. The program initially was committed to 300 children.

Thomas said, with the recent wars, the number has almost doubled. "The military didn't have enough resources," he said. "So, it's up to us now on the outside to give back."

The rising temperature during Country Stampede appeared to not faze the Georgia-born performer. Thomas said he was excited to sing at Manhattan because of the large military population in the area.

"It's good to sing to an audience who knows and appreciates what you're saying," Thomas said. "My songs are stories about the military and they get it."

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Dig

continued from page 13

The archeologists are studying the site because a new sewer line is planned to run through the area to link with new facilities that will be built in the Camp Funston area for Reserve Component units and training support facilities.

HASFR President Alma Guterrez arranged for society members to make the field trip with the archeologists because "we do a lot with the history of Fort Riley, but we've never done anything about the archeological part of our name," she said.

The site and depth of the shovel tests could reveal artifacts from the Smoky Hill Variant era that was predominant in Kansas between 575 and 2000 years ago, said Scott Hall, the archeologist who coordinated the field trip for HASFR.

"Some of the artifacts we're looking for are arrowheads that are side-notched and base-notched," he told the treasure hunters at the trip briefing. People living during the Smoky Hill Variant era were buffalo hunters, but they also raised crops, he said.

The artifact hunters divided into two groups, each with a shovel, a screened frame to sift the dirt, paper bags to hold their discoveries and a log to record their finds. Hall and Fiona Price, also an archeologist with the Conservation Division, helped one group while graduate students Kelly Hockersmith and Chris Beemer helped the others.

Hockersmith and Beemer are working at Fort Riley as graduate fellows of the Oakridge Institute for Science and Education.

One group dug two shovel tests that contained evidence suggesting a building once stood on the site. "All these pieces of rock at this level might have been a limestone foundation," suggested Dick Hall, Scott's father and a Chapman resident.

The group also found a few nails, some charred wood, a roofing tack and some painted wood that supported his deduction.

Judy Hall, Scott's mother, found enough nails that she decided, if she were an Indian, her name could be Nail Finder. Everyone agreed, and when Guterrez found the roofing tack, she claimed the make-believe Indian name of Tack-ee.

The Haug family - father Greg, mother Michelle and sons "Rory" and Nicholas - seemed to have the most success finding stone flakes and chert, but they also dug a couple of holes that contained pieces of concrete.

Nicholas handed Scott Hall a small rock he found in one shovelful of dirt. The archeologist quickly assessed it as a piece of quartz gravel imported to Kansas and used in road gravel. "It's not native to Kansas," he said.

Though no great treasures were uncovered during the field trip, Hockersmith helped put the morning-long effort in perspective: "Even when you don't find a thing, that's good, because you know nothing's there."

If nothing's there, laying a new sewer line through the site becomes less complicated because the area would not be restricted from construction.



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Post/Heronemus

Above: (From left) Archeologist Scott Hall and field trippers Nicholas Haug, Dawn Meadows, Michelle Haug, Rory Haug and Greg Haug sift through a shovel full of dirt at a test site adjacent to Williston Point Road on post.

At left: Alma Guterrez (left), president of the Historical and Archaeological Society of Fort Riley, and graduate fellow Kelly Hockersmith identify the color of each soil level in the 60-centimeter test hole dug during the field trip June 18.

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Edwin Sierra helps his daughter, Tatiana, get ready to go home after a day at the Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Child Development Center.

Program helps military families touched by war on terrorism

By Elaine Wilson

Army News Service

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Capt. Chris Connors and his wife, Delana, were trying to conceive a baby. They each had children from prior marriages, but hoped for one together.

The big joke between the two of them was that as soon as she found out she was pregnant, he would get deployment orders. The laughter stopped when she got pregnant ... and he got orders.

When Delana was four months pregnant, Connors left for training and arrived in Iraq on Christmas Day. He hopes to come home on leave when the baby is born.

"Chris is my best friend," Delana said. "I miss his presence. I always tell him that a bad day with him is better than a million good ones away."

The Connors are just one of the thousands of families touched by war and the pain of sometimes unlimited separations.

"As the real-world tempo increases, so does the number of deployments and level of stress," said Cheryl Harper, Fort Sam

Houston mobilization and deployment readiness manager for Army Community Service. "The families left behind are deeply affected by these separations."

In recent years, the Army stepped up its efforts to ease their pain with a host of outreach programs. ACS, for instance, offers video-teleconferences linking Soldiers and their families worldwide, a variety of educational classes for children and adults and training to jump start Family Readiness Groups.

Even more far-reaching is Military OneSource, a Department of Defense-level Web site and round-the-clock phone center providing an extensive amount of military-related information in one database.

"Military OneSource is a great source of help," Harper said. "It's there to answer those burning questions that come up at 2 a.m. and has a huge database of information to respond to everything from childcare questions to how to get a new ID card."

The questions always seem to increase as family members confront unfamiliar situations, such

as handling finances or firing up the lawnmower.

"Things always seem to happen right after he leaves," said Melissa Cruz, whose husband, Carlos, deployed to Kuwait in December. "The toilet overflowed the day he left for basic training and leaked down three floors. I had no clue what to do."

Now, Melissa said, Carlos calls just about every day to answer Melissa's questions, everything from when the oil change is due to bill payment reminders.

This type of communication is vital to a successful separation, Harper said. However, "ideally, families are setting the groundwork before the deployment — the sooner, the better."

Besides taking on extra household and parenting responsibilities, spouses also deal with a wide range of emotions ranging from initial anger and sadness to worry and fear, Harper said.

"The best thing you can do is to find a routine that works and stick with it," Harper said.

ACS has checklists and pamphlets for every age group and topic imaginable with additional

tips for dealing with deployments. But however available the assistance, the divide between the head and the heart can seem insurmountable, Harper said.

"We may understand the coping mechanisms, but that doesn't always help," she said. "Children have a particularly tough time because they have the same issues as adults but haven't developed the same coping mechanisms."

Edwin Sierra has seen the effects of separation firsthand with his daughter, Tatiana, even though she's just 22 months old. His wife, Haydee, deployed to Iraq in March.

"My wife and daughter are extremely close," Sierra said. "It's been tough on both of them. My wife sent a video for us, and my daughter tried to grab her through the screen, then realized it wasn't really her. She fell on the floor and started to cry."

Sierra said, although heart wrenching, he feels it's important to keep the image of his wife present for Tatiana.

"I don't want her to forget her mother," he said. "I show her pictures all the time."

Network supports military children

Focuses attention on kids of deployed Guard, Reserves

By Margaret McKenzie

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Operation: Military Kids, a community support network for school age children of deployed military service members was officially launched during a ceremony in the Dirksen Senate Office Building April 6.

The U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, National 4-H, Military Child Education Coalition, National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies and other community groups came together to provide and coordinate support for geographically dispersed military families.

The partnership identifies national, state and local agencies, resources and community assets to deliver recreational, social and educational activities to youth who suddenly find themselves with deployed family members, but who don't live on or near a military installation.

"Being a military kid all of a

sudden is plain and simple a tough situation for these young people to be in," said Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa) during remarks at the launching ceremony.

Although the program is open to all military children regardless of service affiliation, it is specifically focused on those of deployed Army National Guard and Reserve members.

"The OMK program supports Army National Guard and Reserve youth like myself," said Gary Ashcroft, son of a U.S. Army Reserve member from Georgia.

The program provides military children with a sense of structure and support that they may not have had before, he added. It has also helped to fill the gap left by the absence of a deployed parent and has unified a population of military youth around the nation.

The OMK initiative was established in January 2004 and currently consists of representatives and partners in 20 states experiencing high deployment rates: Alabama, Arkansas, California,

More info?

For more information or to participate in the program, visit www.usda-army-ydp.org/omk/ on the Web.

Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

"The children of National Guard or Reserve Soldiers can really have their world turned upside down when a parent deploys," said M.A. Lucas, director of Army Child and Youth Services at CFSC. "They face new stresses and responsibilities at home in helping the remaining parent, and because they aren't living in a military community may not have peers who can relate to their new situation."

Children of military servicemembers and others interested in OMK can participate in three out-

reach activities geared to raise awareness for the program in their community:

- "Speak out for Military Kids" is a youth speakers' bureau, formed by military and non-military youth who give presentations to schools and community groups to help educate and raise awareness about military life and deployment.

- Civilian youth in OMK states will have the opportunity to participate in community service projects to assemble and distribute "Hero Packs" (knapsacks filled with a variety of items). The packs will be given to military children and youth as a thank you for the sacrifices they make while their parents are deployed.

- OMK states will receive Mobile Technology Labs to be used to connect geographically dispersed military children with their deployed parents. The labs come equipped with laptops, digital photo equipment, video cameras, scanners, DVD burners, plastic laminators and a variety of software.

Military Life

continued from page 13

and receive love in their lives. Children learn far more from what their parents do than from what they say.

By observing you and your wife in your daily interaction with one another, your children come away either strengthened or weakened in their own self-image as persons who are the incarnation (i.e., visible manifestation) of their parent's love.

When children live in a hostile environment in which their parents are always fighting, might they come to believe that they may have been "accidents?"

A few years ago, a serviceman came to me for counseling and admitted that he had not been the most dedicated and loving husband and father.

When he asked what he could do to show his wife and children that he really loved him, I gave him some advice and asked him to do something "out of the ordinary" the upcoming Sunday.

Because he told me that his

wife would take the children to church while he would sleep-in, I asked him to surprise his wife on Sunday by going with her and the kids to church.

I also recommended that he take the family out for brunch after the services and, seeing that they lived near the beach, I told him to go for a walk on the beach and give his wife a very loving kiss in front of his children.

How many children grow up in homes where they witness their parents often fighting and screaming?

Children are psychologically far better off when they grow up in homes reminiscent of the line in the song, "I saw mommy kissing Santa Claus underneath the mistletoe last night."

Why do some people only kiss on special occasions?

How hard or expensive is it for spouses to give each other spontaneous hugs and kisses?

The importance of couples avoiding hostility, ridicule and other such behaviors is best understood in the following advice often given to new parents:

- If your child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.
- If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.
- If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.
- If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.
- If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.
- If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence.
- If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.
- If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.
- If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith.
- If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.
- If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world.

CANDLEWOOD HEALTH MART PHARMACY

2 x 2"

Black Only

2X2 Candlewood TF June ml

PATTERSON & TRUITT

2 x 4"

Black Only

2x4 Hall Damage

HAMBRIGHT, CALCAGNO & DOWNING,

2 x 8"

Black Only

2x8 TROY #4470-3 7/1

HAMILTON ENTERPRISE

2 x 3"

Black Only

2x3 Coronado Mini Storage

CITY OF MANHATTAN

2 x 3"

Black Only

2x3 city of man arts and park





Community news briefly

BOSS to host post car show

Owners of "hot rides" are being invited to show their "wheels" at the Fort Riley car show being hosted by Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers July 30 at Rally Point. Top "rides" can drive away with honors as best of show, best import, best domestic, best truck or best sound system. Registration fee is \$15 if done before July 22 and \$20 for those who register later. The day is free for spectators. For more information, call BOSS at 239-8147 and visit the Information, Ticketing and Registration office across the parking lot from the Main PX to sign up.

'Rumpelstiltskin' auditions slated

An audition will be held for Missoula Children's Theatre production of "Rumpelstiltskin" from 9 to 11 a.m. July 11 at the Teen Center, Building 5800. Those auditioning should arrive at 9 a.m. and plan to stay for the full two hours. Some of the cast members will be asked to stay for a rehearsal immediately following the audition. Among the roles to be cast are Rumpelstiltskin, Clara, a jester, villagers, gnomes, wizards, knights and bees. Students entering first grade through 12th grade can audition. No preparation is necessary. Assistant directors will also be cast to aid in rehearsals throughout the week and to take on essential backstage responsibilities. Missoula Children's Theatre touring productions are complete with costumes, scenery, props and makeup. The MCT tour actor/directors will conduct rehearsals from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day throughout that week. "Rumpelstiltskin" will be presented July 16 at the Teen Center. For more information, call Nikki Crismann at (785) 239-9923.

Summer camp set for youth

The Exceptional Family Member Program Summer Camp will be July 6 at Rock Springs 4-H Center, 5405 W. Kansas Highway 157, south of Junction City. The all-day camp will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. Children must be 6 years and older and enrolled in the EFMP. Parents must provide transportation. Scheduled events will include canoeing, swimming, horseback riding and archery. While walking to each event, campers will enjoy the beautiful Flint Hills scenery and have lots of fun. For more information or to sign up, call the EFMP office at 239-9435.

Center teaches kids safety

School Age Services is offering "Home Alone" training to children 10 and older. The training focuses on skills children need to remain safe if they are home alone. Classes are scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. July 14 in Building 6620. The class is free to children enrolled with Child Youth Services and costs \$10 for children not enrolled. Parents may attend. For more information, call 239-5077 or 239-9478.

Crafts center classes posted

July 3 - 1 to 4:30 p.m., scrapbooking get-together
June 27 - 7 p.m., crochet, knitting and cross-stitch
July 5 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., wood class (Adirondack loungers and chairs)
July 5 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., ceramic mold pouring
July 9 and 10 - 2 to 4 p.m.,

introduction to black and white photography. For more information, call the Arts and Crafts Center at 239-9205.

Teen Center sets activities

July 1 - Flag football
July 2 - Midnight basketball
July 8 - Skating
July 9 - KC Royals Game
For more information, call the Teen Center at 239-9222.

Youth Services activities posted

June 30 - 1 to 4:30 p.m., Milford Lake Nature Center, first and second grades
July 1 - 1 to 4:30 p.m., Wanego Park, first through fifth grades
July 5 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Chuck E. Cheese trip, first and second grades
July 6 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Eisenhower Park trip, kindergarten
July 7 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Cico Park, kindergarten
July 7 - 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sunset Zoo trip, third through fifth grades
July 9 - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., free child care for deployed Soldiers
For more information, call 239-9173

Rally Point offers fun, deals

June 30 - 95-cent cheese-burger night
July 1 - 5 to 8 p.m., Family Night, family friendly movie, music and buffet
July 6 - 5 to 9 p.m., Wednesday wing night
July 7 - 95-cent cheese-burger night
July 8 - 5 to 8 p.m., Family Night, family friendly movie, music and buffet
For more information, call 784-5434

Girl Scouts offer 'Wild' day camp

The Girl Scouts are planning a Born to be Wild day camp at Fort Riley 2 to 4 p.m. July 18-22 at Ware Elementary School. Campers don't have to be Girl Scouts to attend but they must have completed kindergarten through sixth grade. Scholarships are available to all girls. For more information, call (800) 432-0286, extension 44.

Instructors sought

Instructors are needed for dance, violin, voice, guitar, martial arts and any other form of instructional programming someone is interested in teaching. Instructors also are needed to teach weeklong summer camps. Classes will be held on Fort Riley and may be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor or based on need. Instructors will be paid as contractors. For more information, contact the Instructional Programs Specialist at 239-4723 or Central Registration at 239-4847.

Society seeks tour docents

The Historical and Archaeological Society of Fort Riley needs docents who can volunteer two hours every few months to share the post's history with others. HASFR docents give group tours of the Custer House and tours of Fort Riley. The training is free and provided by museum curator Bill McKale. For further information, call Alicia Broadwater at 717-3266.

Care vacancies available

The Fort Riley Child Development Center has full-day and part-day preschool slots open. For registration information, call 239-4847.

Classifieds
4 x 2L 25"
Black Only





Travel & Fun in Kansas

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America's Warfighting Center

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Leisuretime ideas

Junction City:

What: Sundown Salute. Independence Day celebration. 10K run, parade, veteran's ceremony, fireworks, vendors, and music.

When: 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. July 2-4

Where: Sixth and Washington Streets, Heritage Park
Phone: (785) 238-4450
Admission: Free

Council Grove:

What: Nightworks on the Neosho. 7th annual old-fashioned celebration of Independence Day with special ceremony, musical entertainment, food and fireworks display.

When: 6 to 10 p.m. July 4
Where: Neosho River Walk
Phone: (620) 767-5882 or (800) 732-9211
Admission: Free

Manhattan:

What: Thunder Over Manhattan. Footrace, pancake feed, rides, food booths, bicycle race, band, dance stage and fireworks display.

When: 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. July 4

Where: CiCo Park
Phone: (785) 565-2000
Admission: Free

Salina:

What: Wheat Harvest Days and Old Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration. Demonstrations of rural and agricultural lifestyle featuring horse-drawn binders, antique tractor binding and threshing, and working steam engine.

When: Noon to 4 p.m. July 4

Where: 1100 W. Diamond Drive, Yesteryear Museum
Phone: (785) 825-8473
Admission: \$5 gate, \$4 advance

Wamego:

What: Fourth of July Celebration. One of Kansas' oldest parades, carnival and fireworks display.

When: 6 p.m. July 4
Where: Downtown
Phone: (785) 456-7849 or (877) 292-6346
Admission: Free

Herington:

What: Tri-County Free Fair. 4-H fair, carnival exhibits in community building, rodeo and demolition derby.

When: 6 to 11 p.m. July 6, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. July 7-9

Where: 700 S. Broadway, Fairgrounds
Phone: (785) 258-3359
Admission: Free

Hutchinson:

What: HutchFest. Major entertainment, events for all age groups, ending with one of the States' largest fireworks shows at the State fairgrounds.

When: 6 to 11 p.m. through July 1, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. July 2, noon to 10 p.m. July 3 and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. July 4

Where: Citywide
Phone: (620) 663-7448
Admission: \$3

Wichita:

What: Summer Concert Series. After taking in the sights and sounds of the zoo, enjoy the summer evenings listening to top entertainers from around the country.

When: 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. July 23

Where: 5555 Zoo Boulevard, Sedgwick County Zoo
Phone: (316) 266-8212
Admission: \$10 (ticket must be purchased in advance)



Post/Heronemus

A statue in the Butterfly Garden at Botanica in Wichita portrays a child's wonder at the beauty of nature.



Post/Heronemus

Sculpted metal birds seem to take flight as visitors follow a path through the Schnitzler Juniper Collection near the Centennial Pavilion at Botanica, The Wichita Gardens.

Botanica plants beauty for all

Gardens offer pleasant stroll through color, greenery, pleasing artwork

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

It may seem a long way to go just to walk through a garden, but Botanica is worth the two-hour drive.

A family can easily spend two or more hours wandering along The Wichita Gardens' paths, never seeing the same thing twice and finding plenty of sunny or shady spots to sit on benches and take in the beauty that lies wherever the eye looks.

The Wichita Gardens contain more than flowers, however. It offers more than 10 themed, separate and uniquely landscaped garden spots, including the Shakespearean Garden, Brosius Rose Garden, Water Well Garden, Sally

Stone Sensory Garden, Martha Parriott Terrace Garden and Garden on the Rocks.

For those interested in more than just flower gardens, Botanica offers the John Firsching Pinetum with an interesting stand of pine trees shading a meandering walkway.

The Frank Smith Woodland Glade includes a manmade stream tumbling along the entrance and exit trail and a woodland walk connecting the glade to the Water Well Garden.

The Milburn Aquatic Collection and Boeing Pond combine to present an Oriental atmosphere complete with huge goldfish swimming in plain view and a variety of water lilies growing in the pond.

Statues and sculpture of varied

themes dot the park's gardens and add special visual touches to the pleasant scenery. Fountains add a sparkling splash for some of the gardens.

The Butterfly Garden accentuates the wonder of youth and nature and lies not too distant from the Butterfly House, where visitors can see colorful butterflies of various kinds flitting from blossom to blossom.

Botanica combines its entertaining gardens with a yearlong program of other entertainment.

This year's "Concerts in the Gardens" include a bluegrass trio July 14, Welch musician Aug. 11 and jazz musicians Sept. 8 and Oct. 20.

Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. and cost \$10. Dinner buffets are available between 5 and 7 p.m.

If you go:

Take Interstate 70 west to Interstate 135 on the west side of Salina.

Take I-135 south to exit 8 in Wichita.

Turn right at the end of the off-ramp and take 13th Street to McLean.

Turn left on McLean and travel along the river to Seneca.

Turn left on Seneca and follow the signs to Botanica, The Wichita Gardens.

Admission is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children, children under 5 free.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday (open to 8 p.m. Tuesday June through September) and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Parking is free.

For more information, call (316) 264-0448 or visit www.botanica.org on the Web.

Fireworks restricted

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

Before lighting those fireworks, it's important to know the law. Fort Riley, Junction City, Manhattan and Ogden residents can discharge fireworks from 8 a.m. to midnight, July 1-4, according to officials at the Riley County Police Department.

Any rocket mounted on a stick or wire, including bottle rockets, is illegal throughout the state.

Cherry bombs, M-80s and any firecrackers containing more than 50 milligrams (about 1/6th the weight of a typical aspirin tablet) of powder is prohibited under federal law. Also prohibited are large, re-loadable shells and mail-order kits for building fireworks.

"Basically the regulation doesn't allow for fireworks, and it does not make stipulations or exceptions," said Fort Riley Fire Chief Mike Cook.

Junction City residents are

allowed to purchase and set off fireworks in the city limits from June 28 to midnight July 5, according to officials at the Junction City Police Department.

Manhattan and Ogden residents can discharge fireworks from 8 a.m. to midnight, July 1-4, according to officials at the Riley County Police Department.

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Cherry bombs, M-80s and any firecrackers containing more than 50 milligrams (about 1/6th the weight of a typical aspirin tablet) of powder is prohibited under federal law. Also prohibited are large, re-loadable shells and mail-order kits for building fireworks.

"Basically the regulation doesn't allow for fireworks, and it does not make stipulations or exceptions," said Fort Riley Fire Chief Mike Cook.

Junction City residents are

General to lead parade

Special to the Post

Maj. Gen. Dennis E. Hardy, commanding general 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, will lead the annual Sundown Salute Junction City/Fort Riley Shrine "Just Celebrate" parade at 10 a.m. July 4 in Junction City.

The parade has a long tradition of celebrating the nation's armed forces and the men and women who serve our country.

"By honoring the commanding general, we also honor all of the Soldiers that serve at Fort Riley," said Parade Chair Connie Hall.

The U.S. Air Force and National Guard will conduct fly-overs of the parade route July 4 with ground support from members of

the 10th Air Support Operations Squadron at Fort Riley.

At about 12:15 p.m., a KC-135 from the 190th "Coyotes" of the 117th Air Refueling Squadron, Kansas Air National Guard, will pass along Sixth Street coming from the east.

At 4:55 p.m., plus or minus 10 minutes, a B-52 Stratofortress from Barksdale Air Force Base, La., will make a single pass over Sixth Street, again flying from the east.

Immediately following the parade, a Veteran's ceremony will be conducted in front of the Kansas Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Heritage Park, Sixth and Washington Streets. The fort's Colonial Color Guard will present the colors and Hardy will speak.

VISION CORRECTION CENTER

3 x 8"

Black Only

Ball Color

